



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Air Quality Subcommittee Members

Samuel Alai, Mayor, City of Broadview Heights, Cuyahoga County
Jeff Brandon, Trustee Chair, Montville Township
Mark Alan Carpenter, P.E., District Environmental Coordinator, ODOT District 12
James W. Dvorak, Commissioner, Geauga County
Maribeth Feke, Director of Planning, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
Tim Fischer, Manager of the Division of Air Pollution Control, Northeast District Office, Ohio EPA
John R. Hamercheck, Commissioner, Lake County
David G. Hearne, Interim Commissioner, Cleveland Division of Air Quality
Lori Kokoski, Commissioner, Lorain County
Bert Mechenbier, Air Pollution Control Supervisor, Lake County General Health District
Sam Rubens, Administrator, Akron Regional Air Quality Management District
Bryan Sokolowski, Chief of Air Monitoring, Cleveland Department of Public Health

FROM: Jeff Brandon, Chair

DATE: September 13, 2019

**RE: Air Quality Subcommittee
Friday, September 20, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio**

Please note that in addition to the members listed above, any interested Board members are welcome to attend.

I look forward to seeing you on ***Friday, September 20th at 9:00 a.m. at the NOACA offices.***



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
Friday, September 20, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

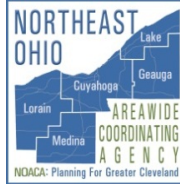
AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

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Next Meeting: ***Friday, December 20, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. NOACA Offices***

Agenda Item No. 1

MINUTES



NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee Meeting

June 21, 2019

NOACA Offices

1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Mr. Jeff Brandon, Chair of the Air Quality Subcommittee, convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Dave Schroedel to approve the minutes of the Air Quality Subcommittee meeting held on March 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Hearne. The motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comments

No public comments were made at this meeting.

Announcement

Ms. Kathy Sarli introduced Mara Caputo as NOACA's new Air Quality Planner (fills the position formerly held by Bev Burtzloff).

ACTION ITEMS

No action items were presented at this meeting.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program for SFY2024 and SFY2025

Mr. Jim Thompson provided background on the CMAQ Program and reviewed the following:

- Program administration
- Eligible applicants
- Phases of development eligible for funding
- Eligible project types including project type score
- Project evaluation criteria
- Program timeline

Mr. Thompson presented a list of 2019 CMAQ funding requests totaling \$29.4 million for projects that have a total cost of \$37 million. He stated that there is no financial impact at this time and action does not approve the proposed funding or implementation schedule of the projects.

Mr. Thompson stated that staff will evaluate the applications and present recommendations to the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) in July 2019. If the projects are endorsed by PPC, recommendations will be presented to the Board in September 2019.

Mr. Hearne asked how NOACA will address the potential conflict of interest and maintain transparency given that the agency has submitted an application for electric vehicle charging stations.

Mr. Thompson stated that all applications will be evaluated using the CMAQ statewide criteria and the applications will be reviewed by PPC and the Board. The CMAQ Statewide Committee will evaluate the projects and select the ones to receive funding. Ms. Sarli mentioned that NOACA only has one vote on the CMAQ Statewide Committee.

Mr. Hearne asked if NOACA will have an administrative role if its project is approved to ensure funds are spent correctly and responsibly. Ms. Sarli stated that if NOACA receives CMAQ funding, it will be spent on the electric vehicle charging stations at the appropriate locations. Mr. Thompson stated that ODOT will oversee all projects.

Gohio Commute Update and Performance Measures

Mr. Tim Kovach provided background on Gohio Commute and performance measures. He stated that the user and systemwide metrics (as of May 31, 2019) were as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Total users: 5,936 | • CO ₂ avoided: 132.47 metric tons |
| • Total trips (all modes): 64,453 | • CO avoided: 1,700.95 kg |
| • Total non-SOV trips: 54,168 | • NO _x avoided: 312.12 kg |
| • Total VMT avoided: 518,569 | • VOCs avoided: 74.56 kg |
| • Total calories burned: 5,879,771 | • PM _{2.5} avoided: 17.62 kg |

Mr. Kovach stated that 51 organizations have created subsites on Gohio Commute, bringing the total number of subsites/networks on the platform to 88. He also stated that the Platform Administration and Enhancement Metrics include the following:

- 18 total challenges
- 104 total events
- 40 employer/organization incentives

Mr. Kovach mentioned that NOACA staff worked with RideAmigos and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to develop the Specialized Mobility Search function.

Mr. Kovach stated that in May, NOACA partnered with Bike Cleveland and uGO to host a bike challenge. Participants logged 1,454 trips and saved over 3.3 tons of CO₂. Weekly raffle winners and top performers received gift cards to local bike shops.

Mr. Kovach stated that staff will continue to promote Gohio Commute to interested organizations, work with RideAmigos to improve the platform, launch the Specialized Mobility Search function, and create new events on the platform.

CY 2018 Air Quality Trends Update

Mr. Kovach stated that NOACA tracks and provides regular updates on Northeast Ohio's air quality, publishes an annual Air Quality Trends Report, and the region's status for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Mr. Kovach mentioned that air quality continues to improve overall in the region and concentrations of all pollutants continue to decline, though there is year-to-year variation. The region is in nonattainment for two of six NAAQS.

Mr. Kovach stated that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) strengthened NAAQS to 70 ppb from 75 ppb on October 26, 2015, and issued nonattainment designations on April 30, 2018. Mr. Kovach noted that Northeast Ohio is designated as a marginal nonattainment area and Lake County (75 ppb) and Geauga County (71 ppb) both had values above the NAAQS. The attainment date is August 3, 2021.

Mr. Kovach stated that Lake County had the highest O₃ value in 2018 (76 ppb). For the 3-year average, O₃ values were above NAAQS for Lake (75 ppb), Geauga (74 ppb), and Cuyahoga (71 ppb). The region experienced 13 exceedance days in 2018, but none so far in 2019.

Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties were designated as nonattainment for 2012 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS in 2015. In 2018, Cuyahoga's PM_{2.5} level was 11.1 µg/m³, down slightly from 11.2 µg/m³ in 2017 (second straight year below 12 µg/m³ standard). The 3-year averages of annual PM_{2.5} concentration for Northeast Ohio ((2006-2008)-(2016-2018)) dropped for all counties in the region. Based on these declines, US EPA officially redesignated the region from nonattainment to maintenance status on April 12, 2019. Lake County was designated as nonattainment for 2010 SO₂ annual NAAQS (75 ppb) in July 2013. Ohio EPA filed a redesignation request on April 8, 2018.

Mr. Kovach stated that staff is in the process of finalizing the draft CY 2018 Air Quality Trends Report and the draft document will be completed in the first half of FY 2020.

Air Quality Forecast Accuracy (through May 31, 2019)

Mr. Joe MacDonald stated that NOACA forecasts daily peak eight-hour ground-level ozone concentrations and fine particulate matter concentrations. In 2019, daily forecasts for ozone began on March 1 and will conclude on October 31, while daily forecasts for fine particulate matter are year-round. The air quality forecasts are posted through AirNowTech in affiliation with U.S. EPA.

Mr. MacDonald stated that NOACA's ground-level ozone (O₃) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) forecasts are based on a review of several meteorological variables and model guidance.

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the 2019 PM_{2.5} forecast performance for the NOACA region. He stated that NOACA's forecasts for good/moderate threshold were correct 68% of the time and the forecasts for moderate/unhealthy threshold were correct 100% of the time.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the forecast performance of ozone was as follows for the period of March 1-May 31, 2019:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>50 ppb</u>	<u>70 ppb</u>
NOACA	85%	100%
NOAA (6Z/12Z)	(89/89)%	(100/100)%

Mr. MacDonald stated that NOACA staff will continue to track the forecast performance of ozone for NOACA and NOAA; track the forecast performance of particulate matter for NOACA only; collaborate with NOAA personnel to report model performance in Northeast Ohio; and provide an update at the Air Quality Subcommittee meeting on September 20, 2019.

2019 Commuter Choice Awards

Mr. Kovach provided background on the Commuter Choice Awards. He stated that NOACA is partnering this year with Sustainable Cleveland, GCRTA, and Laketrans to sponsor the awards.

Mr. Kovach reviewed the award ratings for winners. He mentioned that commuter choice takes into consideration employer support, employer location and commuter behavior.

Mr. Kovach stated that the next steps include the following:

- Participants must complete the survey on NOACA's website by July 17
- NOACA staff will work with interested employers to create subsites on Gohio Commute by July 31
- The NEO Clean Air Challenge will happen throughout the month of August
- The winners will be announced at the Sustainability Summit on October 16

Corridor Recommendations for the Signal Timing Optimization Program (STOP)

Mr. Brian Blayney provided background on STOP. He mentioned that the program began in FY2017; 96 traffic signals within 4 corridors were evaluated; and 12 different local agencies were involved in the process. Mr. Blayney reviewed the following:

- STOP benefits
- Screening criteria
- Overview of 28 corridors
- Selection criteria (operational)
- Potential STOP corridors (operational)
- Selection criteria (emissions)
- Recommended STOP corridors (emissions)

Mr. Blayney stated that Bagley Road and Ridge Road corridors are being recommended by NOACA staff.

Commissioner John Hamercheck asked if Mentor Avenue is receiving funding from a different source. Mr. Blayney stated that Mentor Avenue will receive funding through the ODOT Safety Program.

Mr. Blayney stated that staff will reach out to jurisdictions identified by the screening process to confirm interest and willingness to participate in the program. A request for proposals (RFP) will be developed and advertised in late September to mid-October. Work will begin on the corridors in the spring of calendar year 2020.

Ms. Maribeth Feke asked if NOACA is planning to do any of the other corridors on the recommended list or only Bagley Road and Ridge Road. Mr. Blayney stated that Bagley Road and Ridge Road are the only corridors being recommended at this time.

Old Business

Air Quality Public Education and Outreach Strategy Update

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Air Quality Public Education and Outreach Strategy is in the process of being finalized and should be complete later in the summer.

New Business

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

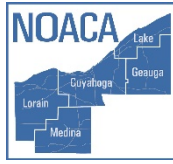
Executive Director's Report

Ms. Grace Gallucci talked about the National Association of Regional Councils Award NOACA received for STOP (Best Program in Major Metro).

Ms. Gallucci stated that NOACA will continue to address the corridors until they work as needed. She thanked members for their time and for supporting NOACA.

Adjourn

Mr. Brandon stated that the next Air Quality Subcommittee meeting will be held at the NOACA offices on September 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



NOACA AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE (AQS) 2019 Attendance Sheet

MEETING DATES	03/15/19	06/21/19	09/20/19	12/20/19
Samuel Alai – Mayor of Broadview Heights (David Schroedel, Alternate)	A	A		
Jeff Brandon, Montville Township (Adam Friedrich, Alternate)	X			
Mark Alan Carpenter, ODOT District 12 (Thomas Sorge, Alternate)	X	X		
James W. Dvorak, Geauga County Commissioner Nicholas Gorris, Alternate	A	A		
Maribeth Feke, Planning Director, GCRTA	X	X		
Tim Fischer, Ohio EPA (Corey Kurjian, Alternate)	X	X		
John R. Hamercheck, Lake County Commissioner (Daniel J. Gerson, Alternate)		X		
David G. Hearne, Cleveland Department of Public Health	X	X		
Lori Kokoski, Commissioner (Robert Klaiber, Alternate)	A	A		
Bert Mechenbier –Lake County General Health District				
Bryan Sokolowski Cleveland Division of Air Quality	X	X		
Sam Rubens, Akron Regional Air Quality Management District				

X - Member present

A - Alternate present



Air Quality Subcommittee
June 21, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Member Sign-in Sheet

MEMBER	SIGNATURE
Samuel Alai – Mayor of Broadview Heights (David Schroedel, Alternate)	
Jeff Brandon – Montville Township (Adam Friedrich, Alternate)	
Mark Alan Carpenter, ODOT District 12 (Thomas Sorge, Alternate)	
James W. Dvorak – Geauga County Commissioner (Nicholas Gorris, Alternate)	
Maribeth Feke – GCRTA	
Tim Fischer – Ohio EPA (Corey Kurjian, Alternate)	
John R. Hamercheck – Lake County Commissioner (Daniel J. Gerson, Alternate)	
David G. Hearne, Interim Air Quality Commissioner, Cleveland Department of Public Health	
Lori Kokoski – Lorain County Commissioner (Robert Klaiber, Alternate)	
Bert Mechenbier – Lake County Gen Health District	
Sam Rubens – Akron Regional Air Quality Management District	
Bryan Sokolowski – Cleveland Division of Air Quality	

Agenda Item No. 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Agenda Item No. 3

CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agenda Item No. 4

ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item No. 7

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 13, 2019

RE: **Update on Development of Air Quality Implementation Strategy**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested at this time. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

In June 2017, the NOACA Board approved a contract with Markey Group, a communications consulting firm, to develop an Air Quality Public Education and Outreach Strategy, and an accompanying Communications Plan. These documents will guide NOACA's air quality public outreach activities over the next 5-10 years. Most importantly, these documents will guide implementation of NOACA's Regional Strategic Plan, and help bring the region into compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA's) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The Strategy identifies gaps in existing air quality programming in the region and will engage the community (individuals, employers, health care organizations, and educational institutions) in actions aimed to improve air quality through their implementation. The Communications Plan, in conjunction with the Strategy, provides specific direction to NOACA staff regarding air quality messaging to the public – via NOACA's website, social media, special events, paid advertising, and other forms of communication.

At the AQS December 2018 meeting, Markey Group presented an overview of both the Strategy and Communications plan. Subsequently, the consultant delivered final drafts of both documents to NOACA's air quality staff. These documents have undergone internal peer review at NOACA.

The final drafts of the documents will be presented, along with initial plans for implementation, during the Subcommittee's September meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact related to this presentation.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

NOACA staff will provide updates on pertinent information regarding the Air Quality Public Education and Outreach Strategy Implementation Work Plan.

GG/tk/3083b



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 13, 2019

RE: 2019 Commuter Choice Awards

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested at this time. This item is included for information and presentation only.

BACKGROUND

Since 2014, NOACA's annual Commuter Choice Awards have recognized organizations in Northeast Ohio that promote alternative transportation modes and foster behavioral change in their employees' commute choices. NOACA and its partners award top employers with Gold, Silver, or Bronze ratings based on employer support (policies, facilities, and incentives), employer location, and (starting in 2017) employee commuter behavior. NOACA also recognizes "best in category" winners: large business, small business, large government entity or non-profit, small government entity or non-profit.

In 2019, NOACA partnered with Sustainable Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), and Laketran to sponsor the awards. NOACA accepted applications for the 2019 Commuter Choice Awards from May 2 through July 24, and a record 37 organizations entered the competition, including five (5) new participants. Throughout August, the participating organizations competed in a month-long challenge on Gohio Commute called the NEO Clean Air Challenge – to measure and rank employee alternative commutes. Organizations whose employees logged the most alternative commutes in August (per capita) boosted their overall scores. A record 30 organizations participated, up from 20 during 2018.

In July and August, staff scored the Commuter Choice Awards applications. In September, NOACA and partner staff reviewed scores and determined winners. On October 16, NOACA and its partners will announce the winners and distribute awards at the annual Sustainable Cleveland Summit.

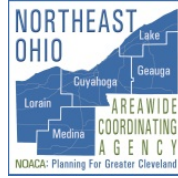
FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

NOACA staff will provide updates on the 2019 Commuter Choice Awards as necessary.

gg/mc/3084b



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 13, 2019

RE: **Gohio Commute Update and Performance Measures**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action requested. This item is included for information and presentation only.

BACKGROUND/INFORMATION

In partnership with the six (6) other largest Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Ohio, NOACA manages Gohio Commute, a multi-regional transportation demand management (TDM) platform. Gohio Commute, which launched in April 2017, serves as a one-stop-shop trip planner for the NOACA region, with connectivity throughout Ohio. NOACA has worked to engage businesses, local governments, colleges, and other organizations to create their own subsites through the platform. These subsites enable organizations to offer their employees (or students) targeted incentives to choose healthier, more efficient modes of transportation.

In order to evaluate the success of Gohio Commute, NOACA staff have developed a set of performance measures, which they track on a regular basis. These performance measures fall within four categories:

1. User Metrics – e.g. number of registered users, number of logged trips
2. Outreach and Promotion Metrics – e.g. number of Gohio Commute workshops, number of subsites created
3. Systemwide Performance Metrics – e.g. number of non-drive alone trips logged, amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) saved
4. Platform Administration and Enhancement Metrics – e.g. number of map layers added, number of events created

From June 1, 2019, through August 31, 2019, 521 new users joined Gohio Commute from the NOACA region, bringing the total number of users to 6,461. During the previous three months, users in the NOACA region logged over 13,313 trips, of which 92.1% were via alternative modes. This count brings the total number of alternative trips to more than 66,500 since the platform launched. Gohio Commute users saved more than \$53,500 in commute costs and almost 42 metric tons of CO₂ emissions during this period (more than \$221,000 and nearly 175 metric tons of CO₂ saved since 2017). There are currently 92 subsites in the NOACA region, representing 53

different organizations. Moreover, users have created 20 challenges, 46 incentives, and 105 events on the platform.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

NOACA will spend \$7,500 on Gohio Commute during FY2020. Compared to OhioRideshare, the agency will accrue a net savings in operational costs of about \$4,000 per year.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to promote Gohio Commute to interested organizations. Staff will also continue to work with RideAmigos to make additions/improvements to the user experience.

GG/tk/3085b



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 13, 2019

RE: **CY 2019 Air Quality Forecast Accuracy (through August 31)**

ACTION REQUESTED

No action requested. This item is included for information and presentation only.

BACKGROUND/INFORMATION

Each year, NOACA forecasts daily peak eight-hour ground-level ozone concentrations and fine particulate matter concentrations. In 2019, daily forecasts for ozone began March 1 and will conclude October 31, while daily forecasts for fine particulate matter continue year-round. NOACA posts daily air quality forecasts through AirNowTech, in affiliation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

AirNowTech statistics show that NOACA staff categorical forecasts of fine particulate matter for CY 2019 (through August 31) were 65% accurate (Good/Moderate threshold (12.5µm)) and 100% accurate (Moderate/Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) threshold (35µm)).

AirNowTech verification statistics also show NOACA staff categorical forecasts of ozone were slightly less accurate than those of the NOAA 6Z and 12Z model runs against the Good/Moderate threshold (50ppb) and slightly more accurate compared to the NOAA model runs against the exceedance threshold (70ppb). Against the Good/Moderate threshold, NOACA staff predicted ozone levels with 80% accuracy compared to 82% accuracy for the NOAA model runs. Against the exceedance threshold, NOACA staff predicted ozone levels with 97% accuracy compared to 96% accuracy for the NOAA model runs. There have been six (6) exceedances (uncertified) of the standard during this period.

For 2019, NOACA staff will provide NOAA personnel forecast verification statistics on NOAA model performance throughout the ozone season (March 1-October 31). NOACA staff will also monitor its own forecast performance and collaborate with others to improve.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Staff will consult with and update the Air Quality Subcommittee throughout this process.

GG/jm/3086b



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: September 13, 2019

RE: **STOP Update**

ACTION REQUESTED

This item is included for information and presentation.

BACKGROUND

Since fiscal year 2017, NOACA has administered a consultant contract to provide technical assistance to Northeast Ohio agencies to improve traffic signal operation on congested roadways. Since then, four corridors have been improved by retiming a total of 96 traffic signals in 12 different communities. The benefits of these projects over a five-year period are estimated as follows:

- Reduction of 12,630 metric tons of carbon dioxide
- Reduction of 1,637,000 hours of delay
- Reduction of 1,416,000 gallons of fuel
- Provided an average benefit-to-cost ratio of 28:1

Currently, NOACA's consultant is in the process of studying Chester Avenue between East 13th Street and Euclid Avenue, then along Euclid Avenue eastward to East 123rd Street, including a large number of adjacent intersections. The implementation of recommended timing changes is scheduled to occur in the month of October. Changes to traffic signal timings will be made in two groups, due to the large number of signals involved, during the weeks of October 7 and October 28.

As discussed at last meeting, NOACA has moved forward with preparing a Request for Proposals for the next STOP contract, which is currently being advertised on NOACA's website under the "About" tab on the "Doing Business with NOACA" page. (See [link](#) to RFP.) The deadline for submitting proposals is 12:00 PM on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

The project consists of Part I and Part II with Part II being "if authorized".

Part I consists of two corridors:

- Bagley Road (from Lindbergh Rd. to Pearl Rd. 3.56 miles, 25 signalized intersections) in the Cities of Berea and Middleburgh Heights.
- Ridge Road (from Pearl Rd. to Denison Ave., 3.47 miles, 20 signalized intersections) in the Cities of Parma, Brooklyn, and Cleveland.

Part II will consist of two corridors of similar lengths and numbers of traffic signals.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funding for the STOP program is provided from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Pending Board approval, NOACA will work with the affected communities and selected consultant to develop the STOP on Bagley Road and Ridge Road.

GG/bb/8087b

Agenda Item No. 6

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 7

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 8

ADJOURN

